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writer. Perhaps he tends sometimes not to see the wood for the trees. But this is an occasional blemish only. It is much to be hoped that he will go on pursuing the investigations into which preparation for this lectureship has led him. Much still remains to be done, even although within the limits of a brief notice it is impossible to do anything like justice to the suggestiveness and, in some points, the natural sagacity displayed here. Mr. Kidd's notable book ought to be read by all who interest themselves in this aspect of the subject. It is its own best commentary.

R. M. WENLEY.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

THE PATHOLOGY OF MIND: A Study of its Distempers, Deformities, and Disorders. By Henry Maudsley. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895. Pp. 571.

Dr. Maudsley concludes his interesting and suggestive study of the pathology of mind with a reference of an autobiographical character to the helplessness of the physician before the dark and discouraging problems of mental disease.

"A physician who had spent his life in ministering to diseased minds might be excused if, asking himself at the end of it whether he had spent his life well, he accused the fortune of an evil hour which threw him on that track of work. He could not well help feeling something of bitterness in the certitude that one-half of the disease he had dealt with could never get well, and something of misgiving in the reflection whether he had done real service to his kind by restoring the other half to do reproductive work. Nor would the scientific interest of his studies compensate entirely for the practical uncertainties, since their revelation of the structure of human nature might inspire a doubt whether, notwithstanding impassioned aims, pæans of progress, endless pageants of self-illusions, its capacity of degeneration did not equal, and might some day exceed, its capacity of development."

Whatever Dr. Maudsley's personal feelings may be with reference to the manner in which he has spent his life, he may rest assured that the studious public will always be grateful to him for his unwearied labors in the domain of mental disease. It is to be recollected that the pursuit of truth for its own sake is an ennobling occupation. Truth no doubt destroys many illusions, and sometimes shatters our fondest hopes, but all these drawbacks are counterbalanced by the fact that it teaches and compels us to look at things as they really are. Illusions of all kinds place us in a false relation to the world, and are often the forerunners of real calamities.

ties ; truth, on the other hand, however disappointing it may be, has at least the merit of helping us to adjust ourselves to the inevitable conditions of our lot. Dr. Maudsley has undoubtedly spent his life wisely and well if he has placed one single stone upon the edifice of truth. It may not be the stone which we might like to see there, but if it is the stone which ought to be there, we must accept it at his hands with gratitude.

The value of Dr. Maudsley's volume to the non-medical reader lies in its earlier chapters. In these chapters he devotes himself to an examination of the various conditions which tend to produce insanity. These conditions he divides into two classes: sociological and biological. In our opinion, it might have been wise to include cosmical conditions. It is unquestionable, for instance, that the tendency to become insane is affected by variations of season and temperature. In France, according to the researches of Cazauvieilh, mental alienation descends to a minimum in the colder months; it commences rising in the spring, and, after a more or less feeble and ephemeral descent, attains its maximum in May or June. It is no doubt true that sociological conditions change with the change of the seasons, but it is hardly likely that the higher ratio of insanity in the spring and summer is entirely due to a mere variation of social circumstances. Attempts to commit suicide in England are also most prevalent in the summer months. The recently published volume of criminal statistics shows that attempts at suicide are at their lowest in January. As the spring advances they continue to increase and culminate in July, when the number is between two and three times as high as in January. In August the period of descent commences and goes on almost without interruption till the end of the year.

In dealing with the social causes of insanity, Dr. Maudsley says that adverse social circumstances, acting in combination with individual conditions, have a powerful effect in augmenting the ratio of madness. It is interesting to observe that this is also the opinion of a government committee which has just presented a report to the Secretary of State on the conditions of English prison life. In a paragraph on prison dietary, the committee express the view that it is among prisoners who are most frequently subjected to a low and innutritious dietary that cases of mental instability and unsoundness are most commonly found. In a memorandum on the subject of insanity in prisons a member of the committee endeavors to minimize its extent. But the contents of this memorandum

will not bear examination. In the first place, the writer, in order to prove his case, assumes that there are more wandering lunatics at large now than twenty years ago. This assumption is contradicted by the facts of every-day experience, and also by public documents, which conclusively show that there is a greater readiness to commit lunatics to asylums than existed a generation ago. The increased numbers of these inmates are an incontestable proof of this. In the second place, the writer omits all cases of lunacy which occur within a month after admission into prison. But, inasmuch as three-fourths of the local prison population are committed to prison for less than a month, it is evident that all calculations based upon the omission of three-fourths of the facts must be absolutely fallacious. Finally, no account is taken of the effect of previous imprisonment in producing insanity, although the committee emphatically state that it is among the previously imprisoned that mental instability and unsoundness are most commonly found. A reference to these facts is sufficient to show that the question of insanity in prisons deserved more careful examination than has been accorded to it by the writer of the memorandum.

An examination of the conditions which tend to produce insanity is the only way to acquire a knowledge of the means by which this most fearful of all diseases may be avoided. Dr. Maudsley believes that the best preservative against madness is to possess what he describes as "a good, sound animality, a wholesome solidarity of body and mind." This opinion at once brings the subject within the sphere of ethical considerations. A wholesome solidarity of body and mind can only be attained by the harmonious education and cultivation of all our faculties. Mental balance will tend to increase in proportion as practical efforts are made to realize this great end. It is only by efforts of this character that the tendency to degeneration in human nature can be prevented, in the words of Dr. Maudsley, from exceeding its capacity for development.

W. D. MORRISON.

LONDON.

THE MELANCHOLY OF STEPHEN ALLARD: A PRIVATE DIARY. Edited by Garnet Smith. Macmillan & Co: London and New York, 1894.

Whether this be a genuine Diary, of the Amiel type, or a book written by Mr. Smith, it possesses distinct interest. The diary